21st July 1953]

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) & (b) Allegations of partiality and fraud on the part of Election Officers in counting of votes among other things have been received from time to time. But in the absence of findings after due inquiry by Election Commissioners, the only authorities constituted to enquire into such allegations on petitions filed by the aggrieved parties, Government are unable to accept such allegations at their face value."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We can take up the next question also, because it also relates to the same subject."

Allegations against officers in charge of Minor Panchayat Elections.

* 797 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the number of election cases alleging partiality on the part of the election officer in the matter of counting votes in the recent elections to the minor panchayats?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Representations have been received upto 15th May 1953 in 32 cases, alleging partiality on the part of election officers in the counting of votes. Election Commissioners are the duly constituted authorities to enquire into such allegations. In the absence of their findings, Government are unable to accept such allegations at their face value."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have already allowed a half-hour debate on this subject."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that these election officers have not been beyond suspicion, will the Government consider the advisability of appointing tellers on both sides so long as the system of open voting continues? " 9-30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Similar allegations can be made against tellers also."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question hour is over. Answers to the rest of the questions will be printed in the proceedings."

Water scarcity in villages under Appapuram Project.

* 798 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any petitions have been received by the Government from the ayacutdars of Kakumanu and Kondapatur, etc., villages under Appapuram Project in Bapatla taluk regarding water scarcity; and

(b) if so, the action taken on them?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) A representation was received on behalf of the ayacutdars of the villages.

" (b) The request was complied with to the extent possible."